

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

SARL SURVEY STILL ACTIVE

DIGITAL INTERFERENCE IN THE 40 METRE PHONE SEGMENT

and

SARL CONTEST WORKING GROUP 2022

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin with news of three silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the keys of Andre le Roux, ZS2AL; Paulina Cooper, ZS6PGC, and Gerrie Barkhuizen, ZS6GSB, have gone silent.

Andre, who lived in Despatch, passed away on Friday evening 11 June following a five-year battle with cancer. He was first licensed in 1983 and loved constructing all sorts of equipment and experimenting with antennas. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Lillian, sons, Jeron and Jaques, and 2 granddaughters.

Paulina of Polokwane passed away early on Saturday 12 June 2021. Paulina was active and well-loved amongst the amateur and radio community in Limpopo. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband Henry, ZS6HCO, family, and many friends.

Gerrie passed away on Saturday the 12th of June 2021 at the age of 82 years. Gerrie was a founding member of the Magalies Radio Amateur Club and also a member of the SABC Amateur Radio Club. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Hannetjie, sons Riaan, ZS6BAR, and Johan, ZS6JJB, and daughters Maritha, Adrie, Carolina and Angelina.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there!

SARL SURVEY STILL ACTIVE

We would like to know how long the average Amateur has taken to amend their legacy licence. Please give your honest feedback on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NY6JR39>. We have received 90 plus responses so far. The information is needed for the SARL response to ICASA.

SARL MEMBERSHIP INVOICES

The membership invoicing process has run, members should have received their invoices by now. If you have received nothing, first check your junk mail folder, then contact Kelley at admin@sarl.org.za.

THE REGION 1 SWOT WORKSHOP

As reported last week, the Region 1 SWOT Workshop was held on Saturday 12 June and the SARL was asked to present its SWOT analysis. The SARL requested input from members via a SARL Communication. The submissions received were categorised and anecdotal information was added. The information was sanitised and summarised into bullet points.

Strengths: Platform and People – the amateur radio platform is well established and driven by motivated and passionate people; Club Structure – the Club structure provides the community with purpose; Self-Study – being a radio amateur means doing it yourself.

Weakness: National Regulator – the Regulator’s inability to issue licences; cost of equipment – the pricing of commercial radio equipment puts it out of reach of people who might otherwise be interested. Import costs are also high; lack of common resources for beginners – an open-source constructor’s site like Hackaday for radio amateurs.

Opportunity: Youth – an untapped resource; back to basics – often for older amateurs the basics are not interesting and are neglected, but that is where everyone starts; failing infrastructure – failing infrastructure can provide the opportunity for Emcom.

Threats: Apathy – The idea that someone else will do it, so why bother. The inability to even acknowledge an electronic QSL entry; amateur radio not relevant – new technologies in communication threatens the way amateurs currently operate; costs - the cost of commercial radio equipment creates an entry-level barrier.

DIGITAL INTERFERENCE IN THE 40 METRE PHONE SEGMENT

At its meeting on 9 June, the Council discussed the matter of interference by digital modes in the phone segment of the 40 m band. Council is aware that the digital segments in IARU Region 2 and 3 and the phone segment in Region 1 overlap. Council believes that digital activity should take place in the digital segment of the Region 1 HF Band Plan and that only when working stations outside Region 1, should the Region 2 frequencies be used. Good operating practice by Radio Amateurs dictates that before transmitting, the operator should listen to ensure that the frequency is not occupied and should only use

the minimum power necessary to establish communication. Digital operators on 40 m should check for activity on the Lower Sideband of the intended dial frequency before transmitting.

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SARL CONTEST WORKING GROUP 2022

The HF Manager wants to convene a Contest Working Group to manage SARL contesting from 2022 onwards. The WG will draw up the 2022 Contest Manual (Blue Book), create the log sheets, and manage the contesting process during the year. Members interested in serving on this WG are asked to submit their names to Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6WN via e-mail zs6wn@bezts.co.za and contest@sarl.org.za by Wednesday 30 June 2021.

CONTEST NEWS

Eleven logs were received for the second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest held on Saturday 5 June 2021. It was determined that there were 5 participants on 6 metres, 37 on 2 metres and 17 on 70 cm. All the logs came from base stations with no field station logs submitted.

1st Vaughn Le Roux, ZS6VLR – 3 117 points

2nd Danie Schnetler, ZS6DPS – 908 points

3rd Dienie Schnetler, ZS6DNI – 533 points

The SARL Top Band QSO Party encourages contacts on the 160 metre band between radio amateurs in Southern African countries and to encourage radio amateurs to apply for the South African Radio League Top Band Award. The 2021 QSO Party runs from 00:01 UTC (02:01 CAT) on Monday 21 June to 21:59 UTC (23:59 CAT) on Friday 25 June 2021 with phone and CW activity. The exchange is an RS or RST report and your 4-character grid square (e.g., KG30). You may work the same station once per mode and you get 2 points for each QSO and 2 points for each new grid square worked. Submit your log sheet in MS Excel by 23:59 CAT on Wednesday 30 June 2021 by e-mail to info@zs6wr.co.za. Turn to page 91 of the 2021 Blue Book for the rules and to www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp for information on the Top Band Award.

The IARU HF Championships takes place from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 10 July and ends at 11:59 UTC on Sunday 11 July 2021 with CW and phone activity on 160 to 10 metres. ZS9HQ needs operators for the contest, you can operate from your own station using the HQ call sign. If you can operate that weekend, send your details to contest@sarl.org.za and hfmanager@sarl.org.za.

CLUB NEWS

RAE Training in Cape Town and Pretoria.

The Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre offers weekly RAE online training in English by a professional teacher. These online courses have been running for several cycles, are skilfully presented and result in a high success rate. For details on how to register for the course please contact the CTARC secretary on zs1ct@ctarc.org.za.

The Magalies Radio Club (MRK) will start its RAE classes on Saturday 10 July 2021. Please visit www.zs6mrk.org for more information.

The South Cape Amateur Radio Club held its AGM on Saturday 12 June 2021. The following office bearers were elected:

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer: Abe Zwiegelaar, ZS1ZS;

Technical and Hamnet: Beat Streckeisen, ZS1HB;

Events Coordinator: Nick Dreyer, ZS1N.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is currently a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible and no solar flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around eleven. The 17 to 30 m bands will at sunrise and especially during the late afternoons, provide some DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

20 June – Father's Day

21 to 25 June – The SARL Top Band QSO party

1 July – Registration for the October RAE opens

3 July – The SARL Newbie Contest

4 July – The ZS5 Sprint

10 July – The RaDAR Challenge, the AMSAT SA Space Symposium and the RAE classes start at MRK

10 and 11 July – The IARU HF Championships

17 July – The Winter QRP contest

18 July – The ZS2 Sprint

21 July – The SARL 80 m Club Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

We would like to know how long the average Amateur has taken to amend their legacy licence. Please give your honest feedback on <https://www.surveymonkey>.

com/r/NY6JR39. We have received 90 plus responses so far. The information is needed for the SARL response to ICASA.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.